

Attorney Docket No.: 11312-006-999 (DC-0199)
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Serial No.: 10/043,539
Filing Date: January 11, 2002
Page 2

The following listing of claims shall replace all previous versions:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-27 (canceled).

Claim ~~28~~¹ (previously presented): A method of screening for lead compounds which inhibit the expression of *sarA* in *Staphylococcus* comprising:

obtaining one or more Staphylococcal accessory regulatory R (SarR) analogs of a SarR protein having an amino acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:2;

contacting said one or more analogs of SarR with a Staphylococcal accessory regulatory A (SarA) protein; and

determining whether said one or more analogs form a heterodimer with the SarA protein wherein the formation of a heterodimer is indicative of a lead compound which inhibits the expression of *sarA* in *Staphylococcus*.

Claims 29-31 (canceled).

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